IMPROVISATION THEATRE is when actors spontaneously create a monologue, scene or play without a script. In some cases like jazz improvisation, actors will take a theme or suggestion to develop new work.

YES AND.... Rule Number One: Accept your scene partner's offer; then, respond with detailed offers that build and support your fellow players offers. Conceptual NOs and BUTs stop the action. Beginning students often go for the joke or sell out a scene partner by negating offers, thus bringing scenes to a screeching halt. Exp: PLAYER 1: Look at my nice new car! PLAYER 2: That's not your car that's your dog!!

GIVE AND TAKE Improvised dialogue going back and fourth between the players with a balance of exchange or ideas.

NO BLOCKING Blocking is doing the opposite of YES AND... Rejecting information or ideas offered by another players ("here is a hammer" "I don't need that!"). If another player give you an offer then accept it ("here is a hammer" "Thanks now we can build our dog house!")The best way to move a scene forward is for both players to be in agreement.

JUSTIFY EVERYTHING Find a solution for every offer and every element introduced in the scene. Think you made a mistake? No problem. Just find a way to justify it.

CONFLICT GOOD/ARGUING BAD The best comedy and drama both derive from great conflict. The worst (with rare exceptions) comes from bickering back and forth minute details. With improvisation, arguing details becomes petty. Rather than demanding "I'm right", try to resolve the conflict.

PANTOMIME Use your space and define your environments, characters, and actions using physical gestures and committing to the scene head to toe. Avoid being a "talking head". Physical activities and choices take us "out of our heads".

QUESTIONS Rephrase questions as a detailed statement by answering your own question and adding details to your motivation. Most questions are usually a sign of players relying on their scene partners to carry a story. "What is that" should be something like "That is a very exquisite flower you have there." / "Where are we?" could be "It sure is cold in this musty old apartment"

ASK FOR is a question of statement posed to the audience looking for a suggestion for scene topics

STAYING "IN THE MOMENT" Just like with scripted material it's important to be prepared, listen and focus on the current moment. Listen and respond to your scene partner. Planning ahead takes you out of the moment resulting in many missed opportunities for humor. Try not to focus on quick zingers and punchlines by creating a unique situation through details and activity.